

Fram Focus volume 1:3 / February 2016

Greetings,

This issue has something for the entire RIT community – *Keep Reading!*

We are excited to announce the Fram Awards for excellence in Applied Critical Thinking!

Also included:

- A reminder about our signature lecture (and why we chose our current theme of complexity)
- Information about our new community of practice for faculty and staff

As always, read to the bottom for the latest Fram It! Good Luck!

Announcing the Fram RIT Imagine Award for Excellence in Applied Critical Thinking

Calling all exhibitors!!!

Want to win some Tiger Bucks? Already put in a lot of thought into your exhibit? Tell us about it and you could win up to \$250 tiger bucks!

The Fram Advisory Board is sponsoring the Fram Awards for excellence in *Applied Critical Thinking*.

We are looking to recognize exhibitors who are awesome critical thinkers! In your efforts did you:

- Applied: Consider an issue, address a problem?
- Critical: review data and information, investigate and address weaknesses in your approach?
- Thinking: collect & synthesize information to arrive at a result?

We are offering awards in three categories:

Individual, Small Group (2-5 participants), Large Group (6 or more participants).

See <https://www.rit.edu/provost/eugene-h-fram-chair-applied-critical-thinking-0#Awards> for more information.

Please email your response to RITFramChair@rit.edu by noon, Friday April 15, 2016 for consideration.

2016 Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking Spring Lecture

Guest Speaker: Dr. Luís A. N. Amaral, Professor of Chemical & Biological Engineering, Northwestern University

"Thinking Critically: The Complexity of Modern Medicine"

We all admire and respect heroic actions. The firefighter that rescues the child from the burning house. The secret service agent that takes a bullet to save the president's life. The doctor that brings someone back from the brink of death. In all of those cases, the hero reacts promptly, decisively. Unfortunately, our admiration for heroic actions misses the global impact of subtler actions beyond that celebrated instant. It also can gloss over the preparation and critical thought that is part of successful implementation. Modern life requires all of us to exercise these skills in varying ways. Medicine is an example of the need for our best applied critical thinking in a truly challenging and complex context.

Interpreting services provided

Lecture: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Webb Auditorium (Booth Building)

Reception: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Immediately following lecture)

Vignelli Gallery (Booth Building)

Registration: <https://www.rit.edu/provost/framlecture>

Our Theme: Complexity

So, why did we choose complexity as our theme? Simply, it is because our world is not getting smaller, nor are the issues of our lives. In addition, we chose it because much of our efforts to analyze and explain (particularly in today's sound bite, text and twitter world) attempt to reduce the nuances of an issue or problem to abbreviated explanations. We also chose complexity because much of our research now is centered on modeling or visualizations that represent and communicate complex data and information, and within that process can be underlying assumptions, etc. that may not be evident to the audience. Finally, we chose complexity because applied critical thinking seeks to address complexity in its various forms.

Best Practices & Community of Practice:

Calling all teachers of Applied Critical Thinking

The Fram Advisory Board (FAB) has begun looking for examples of applied critical thinking practices and pedagogy, inside or outside the classroom. Our intent is to collect these examples to share on our upcoming website, and engage faculty and staff in a community of practice focused on Applied Critical Thinking. Do you have a great example or two? See your FAB rep or contact us through: RITFramChair@rit.edu. More to come!

FRAM IT!

And now, for FUN...

Here is your next opportunity to exercise your critical thinking:

Question: How many steps does it take to traverse the RIT campus?

For this challenge, your answer must explain the *process*, including any *assumptions* you undertook to arrive at your result or results, and the possibly unique ways you considered this question.

Rules for this Fram It!

1. You must be able to explain how you arrived at your result.
2. You must describe or document your process in one page or less and email it to RITFramChair@rit.edu.
3. You must be willing to have your process published.
4. You must have an active RIT ID to participate.

The prize: The first 5 RIT community members who Fram It! successfully get a Java Wally's treat coin that they must pick up in person. Processes may be published on our upcoming website.